



City of Hampton, VA

Meeting Minutes

City Council

22 Lincoln Street
Hampton, VA 23669
www.hampton.gov

Linda Curtis
W. H. "Billy" Hobbs, Jr.
Will Moffett
Chris Snead
Christopher G. Stuart
Donnie R. Tuck
George E. Wallace, Mayor

Staff:
Mary Bunting, City Manager
Cynthia Hudson, City Attorney
Katherine K. Glass, CMC, Clerk of Council

Wednesday, September 25, 2013

5:32 PM

Council Chambers, 8th Floor, City Hall

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

MOLLY JOSEPH WARD PRESIDED

PRESENT: W. H. "Billy" Hobbs, Jr., Will Moffett, Chris Snead, Donnie R. Tuck, George E. Wallace

ABSENT: Christopher G. Stuart

INVOCATION – Donnie R. Tuck

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CEREMONIAL ITEMS - "Spotlight on Citizens"

Mayor Ward welcomed everyone to the program and introduced Mr. Brian Marchese, Technology Coordinator, to emcee the program.

Mr. Marchese greeted those on the dais and noted it had been a few months since the City's last Spotlight program. He introduced three topics for the program: recognition for three citizens who saved a woman's life after a dramatic car crash, the Military Affairs Committee, and the Peninsula Pilots' championship.

Citizen Recognition - Jason Ehret, Jacob Ehret, and Bill Leath

Mr. Marchese described the heroic activities of Bill Leath, Jason Ehret and Jacob Ehret on the morning of May 22, 2013. From their efforts, Dorothea Allen-Riley's life was saved. He shared a video of the Channel 13 News coverage of the event and invited the citizens to step forward for recognition.

Mayor Ward thanked the citizens on behalf of the City for their heroism. She stated that they exemplified what great Hamptonians are. She presented each of them with a City coin. Vice Mayor Wallace noted that it was extraordinary that 7-year-old Jacob Ehret was astute enough to have the telephone ready to call 911.

Recognition of the Hampton Military Affairs Committee

Mr. Marchese shared a quote from George Washington, "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation." He noted that the Hampton Military Affairs Committee (MAC) was started to promote a strong, healthy and cooperative relationship between the City and the local military installations and support activities, and promote the interests of active-duty service members, veterans and their families. The volunteer group has approximately 35 members.

Mr. Marchese noted that the 2000 Census showed that the City had the greatest concentration of veterans in the civilian population, at 27.1%, of any place with a population greater than 100,000, making Hampton the leader in percentage of residents who are veterans.

Mr. Marchese then shared ways MAC honors their mission statement in Hampton. He noted the Day of Remembrance and Hope, a ceremony honoring those who died and those who showed heroism on 9/11, is MAC's most recognized event. This year marked the 12th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks and the 12th anniversary of the City planting "Trees of Hope" in "the Soils of Justice" land from the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and Somerset County, Pennsylvania. He also stated that MAC strives to help the homeless, noting that local experts say approximately 20-30% of Hampton's homeless are veterans. He also emphasized MAC's advocacy in the areas of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, suicide and suicide ideations, sexual harassment, family challenges with multiple deployments, and veteran transition, education and employment.

Mr. Marchese stated that MAC held an inaugural "Transition on the Go!" event in March 2013. A second one will be held on October 27th with a third one being held March 2014.

Mr. Marchese introduced Mr. John Gately, MAC Chairman. Mr. Gately stated that everyone is under a platform of support through the City, but is also under a shelter that's provided by those who serve. He asked the members of MAC in attendance to stand. He stated that when he heard MAC was going to be recognized, he was grateful but refused. He noted that MAC is not here for acclaim or acknowledge, but only to serve those who serve and have served, and it is an honor to do that with the City's support. He stated that if anyone is interested in joining MAC, they can call 311, which has the next steps to take and can also take identifying information down for MAC. Other options are going to Hampton.gov/MAC or contacting any member. The criteria for eligibility are a desire to serve and a toolbox of skills that would lend itself to that service.

Mayor Ward thanked Mr. Gately and the members of MAC for all the hard work they do in the community. Councilman Moffett extended his appreciation, as a veteran, and the appreciation of the entire Council and City for the service, not only to the Country, but in helping Hampton become a military-friendly City. He noted that Hampton is the only city in the region that has a military affairs committee and a full time Facilities Coordinator working with Federal facilities. He stated that MAC does a great service to the community and the nation.

Proclamation Honoring the Peninsula Pilots

Mr. Marchese stated that the Peninsula Pilots baseball team capped off their season by winning the Coastal Plain League Petitt Cup Championship. It was their first time winning the Championship, and they did so with a regular season record of 33-22, a playoff record of 6-2 and an overall record of 39-24. He introduced Henry and Hank Morgan for presentation of a proclamation in honor of their victory.

Mr. Henry Morgan stated that they were very proud and happy for the players, coaches, sponsors, staff and everyone who contributed to the success, but are most happy for the best fans in the league, the citizens of Hampton. When the Pilots hosted the All-Star game, there were representatives from 13 other cities in the south. He thanked Vice Mayor Wallace for participating in Pete Vann Day and the All-Star game, when he sat with the City Manager from Petersburg.

Mr. Henry Morgan led the Chambers in the Pilots cheer.

Mayor Ward thanked the Pilots for the joy they bring to the citizens during the spring and summer.

Mr. Hank Morgan stated one thing that stood out to him during the celebration of the Championship was all that goes into making it happen and everyone in the community. He noted that he hopes the City feels as strongly about the Pilots as they feel about being in Hampton. He thanked the City.

Mayor Ward asked Mr. Henry Morgan to hold up the trophy for the cameras.

Mr. Henry Morgan noted that they were honored to be mentioned with the first two honorees tonight. He stated that he wasn't sure they belonged on the same agenda. He thanked MAC and the citizen honorees.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Katherine K. Glass, Clerk of Council read the protocol for the Public Comment session.

Mayor Ward thanked everyone for their attendance. She noted that at least the first 22 people signed up to speak are from Hampton University to discuss the houseboat, so she requested Ms. Cynthia Hudson, City Attorney, to summarize where the situation is legally.

Ms. Hudson noted that, with respect to a governing body's legislative decision approving a particular land use, such as the conditional privilege granted for the operation of a boat for a bed and breakfast, the legislative act grants a right that can only be revisited under very limited circumstances, not simply because the Council changes its mind. Rights in that use that have been granted begin to vest as of the vote granting the use. Although there are other steps that might be necessary for full vesting, the vote of Council is considered a significant governmental act that vests a right to that use once it has been granted. It can be revisited under the limited circumstances where Council finds, once the use has been implemented, that the use is conducted in a way that violates the conditions that Council placed on the use upon granting. In this case, there were four

conditions that became a part of the legislative act. Another circumstance that would allow Council to revisit it, either before the use begins or after, is if information is provided that was not given before to indicate that the use, by its very nature, violates a law that would impair health or safety of individuals in any manner. So far, that information has not been provided to Council. Thirdly, the Council can revisit a land use decision if they were in any way misled by the applicant with respect to the nature of the use and how it would actually be carried out on the land in question. Beyond that, the legislative act of granting a particular land use carries with it a very stable right that the governing body can only revisit under those circumstances listed.

Ms. Hudson added that even if a reason exists to revisit a land use decision, such as the ones described, it cannot be addressed as a matter of parliamentary procedure, such as taking a motion to rescind or reconsider in a subsequent meeting. Because Virginia law requires that land use decisions be accompanied by additional public hearing requirements, consideration by the Planning Commission, and a recommendation by the Planning Commission to the governing body, it has to start again from the beginning land use decision making process, as opposed to a summary decision by the Council.

Mr. Justin Williams, 229 Harkness Hall, HU, greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I'm a first year five-year MBA student at Hampton University. I would first like to thank the Council for allowing us to come here and voice our opinions this evening. In regards to the boathouse usage, from my understanding, this boat would cut off a piece of Hampton University's land that is right outside of our brand new cafeteria facility, where students come daily and have the luxury of sitting in the cafeteria and enjoying a beautiful waterfront that will now be replaced by a boat dock that's not meant for us, as students. I know, when I was a freshman, I had tons of offers to go to different schools, and one of the reasons I chose Hampton University is because of its beautiful campus and it's our home by the sea. Our water is very valuable to us and we do oftentimes walk along this waterfront and enjoy it as scenery, a part of our campus. In bringing this boathouse dock here would really impair this upon students. It's important for us to look at the value of this boathouse. What is this boathouse really for? Is it intended to increase revenue? Because, if so, we have more than 6,000 students on our campus, why not build something that's more friendly for students to use? As a result, you can increase revenue and create a broader tax base. So, in this situation, I just feel like this boathouse really isn't benefiting that many people. From the prices of the boat, it's really reaching out to the affluent people in Hampton, the City of Hampton, and not necessarily the bigger demographic that you have at your disposal, which is Hampton University. In short, in conclusion, I feel like if we're going to use Hampton University's land, why not make something for Hampton University students or something that can benefit everybody, not just one small, particular group of people. Thank you.

Mayor Ward noted that it is not appropriate to applaud during public comment. She also noted that this is not a boathouse, but a houseboat that will be a bed and breakfast.

Mr. Justin J. Shaifer, 201 WEB Dubois Hall, HU, greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I am a sophomore marine and environmental science major from Chicago, Illinois. I'm going to keep this relatively short and sweet because of the vast amount of speakers that we have here today. My main concern is, or my main proposal to you all is, if at all possible, could we have this, I guess this whole houseboat service relocated to a location that isn't very far. Just because of reasons previously stated and reasons that will be stated after. Thank you.

Ms. Aliah Williamson, 224 Twitchell Hall, HU, greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I'm from San Diego, California, and this is my first year at Hampton University. I just want to let you all know that I came all the way here from California. My daddy wasn't ready to let me come here. The only reason he let me come was because of how safe Hampton University was. My biggest concern when I heard that this houseboat was going to be built right on our campus, nowhere around any campus security, was what am I going to do to be safe? What can I do to keep myself safe? Strange men, strange women, drunk all the time on our campus? That really worried me. And I'm pretty sure it's going to worry my daddy, too. So I would just keep that in mind, seeing as he is a Marine Corps Officer, he does serve our country. Thank you very much.

Mr. Raymond Sizemore, 106 Harkness Hall, HU, greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I'm a political science major at the beautiful Hampton University. I'm proud to be able to speak my opinion to this Council and the City officials, and I'm also proud of the rich history that Hampton University has. It's a campus with rich history and a rich culture and a history that we ought to respect. We can't respect that history if we're imposing on the land of this beautiful university. If we're imposing on the land, then we're simply saying that this houseboat is more important than the history of this university, of the things this university is trying to do for its students, and for everything that Hampton University stands for. I don't believe that that's right. I don't believe that we ought to be doing that. I don't believe – I personally, won't just sit by and allow that to happen to the university that I call my home by the sea. As a previous classmate of mine said, just safety concerns that arise with this houseboat. People that we don't know, people that we're unaware of what they're doing on this houseboat. We don't know what they're going to come onto our campus and just do, and we don't want those unknown conditions to happen on our campus. I don't want those unknown conditions to happen. I know the administration doesn't want that. We just want to make sure that our students and our university are safe and that the rich history of Hampton University is preserved for our students now and our students to come. Thank you very much.

Ms. Kayla L. Wimbush, 315 White Hall, HU, greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I am a sophomore broadcast journalism major from Detroit, Michigan. The reason I'm standing here before you today is because my beautiful, awesome, esteemed university is going to have something taken away from it. When I came to Hampton, one of the major selling points for me, other than its curriculum, other than the family base, was its beautiful waterfront. The waterfront is so much more to us than just grass and water. It's a place we go to enjoy, it's a place of peace, it's a place for us to relax after a long day of class. And also, there's a lot of history here in Hampton, Virginia, and that's one of the reasons I came here. By adding this houseboat, I believe that is taking away from our rich history, that I came here for. I don't believe that it is a great addition to us as students, seeing as though we are a huge base here in the Hampton area, and also, I think that it is not safe, especially as a young woman, to have a houseboat of different individuals that will be taking part in whatever activities that will happen on that boat. I think that it is not a good addition, and I think that you all should reconsider. Thank you so very much.

Ms. Alyssa Stanko, 1629 Winthrop Drive, Newport News, greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I'm a senior political science major from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Hampton is a university of traditional excellence. It is our home by the sea, not our home by the boat with all due respect. We also have a chapel not very far

from where this houseboat is planned to be planted, and I feel like that can definitely interfere with our respect to religion, our respect to worship, especially with this being, I believe it was a three-day minimum stay on this boat, which I'm more than sure would go over on weekends. The other concern is our cafeteria is brand new. I'm not sure how much you guys looked into the outcomes of tearing up that land, but there is a possibility it will affect the infrastructure for that cafeteria. The other concern, like they said, is safety. Hampton is a very safe place; a lot of reason why most of our parents let us come. I am also a military brat myself, which is why my parents chose to let me go to Hampton. It's a private institution, which is also, might I add, alcohol-free. So if this houseboat plans on providing those type of beverages, that definitely crosses our campus rules and guidelines, and our traditions of excellence. Thank you guys so much for hearing everything we had to say.

Ms. Nadeva Harris, N4 Virginia Cleveland Hall, HU, greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I'm also a Hampton student, freshman broadcast journalism major from Atlanta, Georgia. It is my genuine pleasure to say that Hampton University is now my new home by the sea, the way it already is. Now, you may know that Hampton University was founded in 1868 and, of course, it's a historically black, private, liberal arts university dedicated to the promotion of learning and the building of character, preparation and promising students of leadership and service. On my tour of Hampton, I fell in love with the campus. Of course, we have just built a magnificent cafeteria, which was a \$2 million project, and it will so be ruined with this houseboat, as we believe. We pay over \$36,000 for tuition and this houseboat that you're going to put on land does not benefit us at all. This puts our beautiful campus and student safety in danger. We pay property taxes, so we feel that we don't need to – we should use the property – excuse me, don't use our private area and there's plenty of other places where the river still continues to flow, not being on Hampton University's campus. Now, the student body and staff of Hampton University implore you to make the best decision for all involved. Our safety and total well-being is at stake. Please explore additional alternatives before you destroy a legacy that has impacted the lives of our community and our nation. Thank you.

Mr. Peter D. Savedge, 218 James Hall, HU, greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I am a senior, well no, freshman at Hampton University from Surry County, Virginia. I'm jumping ahead of myself. I would like to voice my concerns this evening to you all about the proposed houseboat. The location of the houseboat would provide its patrons with ease of access to our campus, which would jeopardize our students' safety. Also, its location is very close to a bridge that we use to cross the Hampton River to patronize businesses in Downtown Hampton. Furthermore, Hampton is my home by the sea and our home by the sea, and in years to come, I hope that it will remain that way, that I can say it with the same pride that I say it with now. That's all that I have to say and I thank you for your time.

Ms. Alexis Brown, 317 Davidson Hall, HU, greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I am a junior psychology major from Dublin, Virginia. When I heard about the proposed houseboat, I was like, is this going to cause a problem for upcoming freshman. Because when I first attended Hampton University, I was only 17. So, when my parents were like, oh, it's a closed campus, I was like, yes, they were like, that's a go. So, basically, I wanted to address the fact that if it poses an issue, because we do use the bridge where the houseboat would be placed, would that pose the issue of safety for us as a student body? Because, when you're coming to somewhere, even

from a small area, like Dublin, Virginia, to Hampton University, you do not expect – you know, you expect a little bit more people, but not to the extent of what this may be if this houseboat was placed on our campus. Also, where the boat will be placed is a place where I have went many of times to gain strength when I was in some of my weakest points as a college student. I want my future Hamptonians that will be coming in in the upcoming years to be able to have that same place to go and just look out at the water and gather their thoughts and just be students and find a place to go for peace. If this houseboat is present, that will interrupt our moments of tranquility. So, basically, I just feel as though, if this boat's here, we've now lost a piece of our history as Hamptonians, which many of our previous Hamptonians have went to find that level of tranquility and peace as students, and that tears a part of our history out. With that being said, I would really appreciate if you all would reconsider taking apart a piece of our history to start a new piece of history. Thank you.

Ms. Jamesee Evans, 304 Davidson Hall, HU, greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I am a senior at Hampton University and as statements have already been stated about tranquility, another issue that we have is parking. We already have enough issues on campus with parking and where would more parking be instilled? Would there be a rate for students to park, as well as people using the actual boat? Thank you.

Ms. Mariah McClain, 416 Twitchell Hall, HU, greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I'm from Clancey, Michigan. I have to say, this is the home by the sea, and one of the major reasons why I decided on Hampton University. I went on a college tour and on visiting Hampton University, that was one of the deciding factors, or one of the biggest ones, in being able to be by the sea. Also, I wanted to reiterate the fact that 6,000 students do go to Hampton University and that we do bring in a lot of revenue, going to the mall, taking taxis, and that if we invested more into our students, 6,000 people would be a lot to invest into instead of a houseboat. Thank you.

Mr. DaQuan M. Love, 315 WEB Dubois Hall, HU, greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I'm the president of the Student Government Association (SGA) at Hampton University, representing the thousands of students that attend our great institution. And I know that what the City Attorney has stated with regards to the legal matters for reconsideration, but as I think all of us know, there's always a way to reconsider a matter that the Council has made. We are here because we are concerned. First, during your previous City Council meeting, it was stated that the proposed boathouse project would attract well-to-do individuals and this would not cause trouble in the surrounding neighborhood. But I believe that one's class or financial status does not dictate one's potential behavior. This particular project will be located adjacent to the university dining hall and will endanger the safety of our students, and is less than 500 feet from two university residence halls and a new research facility. Less than 500 feet from where our students live, learn and grow in their residence hall facility. That calls into question the safety and well-being of our students. For over 146 years, Hampton University has peacefully existed in our community without a major concern for the safety of its students. Unfortunately, your recent affirmative vote on this matter leaves the university vulnerable. Honorable members of the City Council, this proposed boathouse is more than just a business venture. It is a danger to the safety and well-being of Hampton University students and the surrounding community. As the Hampton University SGA president, representing a student constituency of nearly 8,000, I respectfully ask that you reconsider this matter. Failure to do so will leave us no choice

but to take our opposition to the community at large. We will unite our student body, and this is just a portion of them, a small portion of them, to participate in this fight. We are not opposed to business, but we're clearly opposed to its location. To protect the interest of the student body, we will leave no stone unturned, and we will exercise our rights to the fullest. Ladies and gentlemen, we are very serious, and we need your help to protect our community. Thank you.

Mr. Jordan Hagans, 216 Holmes Hall, HU, greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: Thank you for allowing me to be here, as well as Hampton University. My question that I have is, I understand some of the legal rights that Hampton University has, as well as the company and the business that the boathouse would like to bring to this area. But my question is, what conditions that must actually be met for Hampton University to be able to hold that land and still keep it as ours, and also what conditions must be met for you guys to withhold the right of the business from having a boathouse on that land. Thank you.

Mr. Rashad Williams, 411 James Hall, HU, greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I'm a freshman strategic communications/political science double major on the pre-law track. Why did I come to Hampton University? I came to Hampton because of the elite reputation that we have, the historical vibe that I get when I walk the campus, the students that stay here. Why do the students affect me and why I chose Hampton? Because they, we move as a family. Now I can relate this situation to a home, that hopefully we all stay, reside in, and we all take pride in. Whether that home is rented or is bought, we live comfortably within that home and we develop memories as the longer we stay there, the more memories develop. Now, imagine if, you know, the owner, let's say it's rented, the owner of that home were to come in, smash all of the family pictures, or if they don't smash the family pictures, they replace them with new ones with them in the background, which totally disregards the whole idea of a family picture, and they reconstruct that home that you've been building on for years and years, ever since 1868. I ask that you all please, please don't reconstruct our home. We've been building on this legacy since 1868, and we continue to build on this legacy. We want to continue to build on this legacy. We, as students, as I said previously, take much pride in Hampton University and part of Hampton University is its view. That's one of the major things that we have to offer. Hampton University is a part of my heart. It has been since the day that I stepped foot on campus. By putting this boat here, you are taking out a piece of Hampton University, as well as taking out a piece of my heart, as well as fellow students. So with that being said, I ask that you please reconsider the decision to place your business here as opposed to elsewhere, where we both can benefit from the decision. Thank you.

Ms. Maulana Moore, 134 Lake One Drive, greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I'm a senior broadcast journalism major from Spartanburg, South Carolina. I just want to share a story that a lot of students share. I'm a senior, but it seems like just yesterday, I was a freshman and my dad was dropping me off on campus at Twitchell Hall. The first thing I remember seeing was the beautiful view as we came over the bridge, and my dad couldn't wait to unload the car. You know, "Hurry up, we gotta get in there. There are a bunch of people, let's hurry up and get upstairs, the elevator may not work, you have a lot of stuff, let's hurry up." But all I could do was sit back and take in this beautiful view, and I began to plan how I would spend my days studying under trees or having picnics with friends, and as the years went on, that did happen. It was a waterfront where we did have picnics, we did have cookouts hosted by

the cafeteria. I would see geese and birds soak in the sun or take in the scenery as if they were regular people on the waterfront. And so, I ask this Council to revisit this matter for the future of other Hamptonians that are to come here. It is definitely a legacy that will stick with me for the rest of my life, and I want the same thing for future Hamptonians. Thank you.

Ms. Alexis George, D6 Virginia Cleveland Hall, HU, greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I'm a freshman political science major from Richmond, Virginia. Not too long ago, when I was a senior in high school making my college plans and deciding between different schools to go to, I initially chose to go to Hampton because of its rich history and culture and its picturesque campus, two things which I believe may be negatively affected by the completion of the houseboat. Additionally, I wanted to – for you all to take into consideration that the houseboat would be in very close proximity to many of our campus's facilities, such as our cafeteria and many freshman residence halls, as well as residence halls in general. That would potentially cause problems when – potentially cause problems concerning health and safety of our students. Thank you for your time.

Ms. Imari Williams, 29-1A Lakeshore Drive, greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I am a senior broadcast journalism major, criminology minor from Gary, Indiana. I'm here today, on my birthday, just as an example of our dedication to this university and to this City as students. I just want to talk about, as far as my peers have spoken on our Hampton experience, before we came down here on the bus to speak, we all had a meeting on some talking points, as far as we were told this would benefit the public. Well, we all consider ourselves as students as the public, and we have yet to see how this could benefit us as we have stated earlier. And as we said before, on the Hampton's campus at the cafeteria, we have cookouts, we have events, we have social gatherings, and if this boat, this bed and breakfast, this boathouse was docked there, it'd be kind of forcing us out of our years of traditions of just socializing and being together as one. And, as we talked about, the Booker T. Washington Bridge, I've had countless experiences walking that bridge to go into the City of Downtown Hampton to have experiences with my friends. It's very important for us to continue those traditions as students because I would like to pass it down to my kids when I get older, if they plan to attend Hampton, and I'm sure we all as well. We were told that, you know, this land, you know because you reviewed it, and we would be compensated for that land. But I feel like our experience is priceless. It's something you can't put a dollar on, something that doesn't have an amount, because taking those walks over the bridge or taking those walks and having those events at the "caf" were priceless to us. No one can buy those memories from us, no one can take that experience from us. And just taking that away and having those boats dock there would just be heartbreaking to us, because that's something that we want to continue to have as we go on. This is my senior year, and like I said, I'm here on my birthday, and I'm very passionate about this institution and this university and I would like to see that keep on happening. Just thank you for hearing us out, and please, just revisit the decision, because it's one I think it would be very worthy to look into again. Thank you.

Mr. Cameron Abney, 230 Harkness Hall, HU, greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I am a freshman computer engineering major all the way from the Sunshine State of Florida. Unlike many of my peers here, I do not get to go home often. What drew me to Hampton University was the waterfront. There, from Florida, I have access to beaches and I used to go all the time, so the waterfront is a piece of home that

I brought here with me. Because I don't get home often, I find myself on the waterfront often. With this houseboat, that bit of home that I carried here with me will be gone. And so, with that being said, I ask that you all consider your – reconsider this idea for building this houseboat on our campus. Thank you.

Mr. Jeremiah Davis, 218 Harkness Hall, HU, greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I am a bio major and I'm also a freshman. I'm from Atlanta, Georgia, so I've also had access to beaches in the south, too, as well. I've been accepted to many marvelous colleges and I decided to come to this wonderful home by the sea, Hampton University. Also, I say that some of my other students here and other family members here, that Hampton's waterfront is really what brought me to this wonderful university, not just also the curriculum and also the wonderful history here, but just the wonderful view that I'll be able to see when I walk outside, coming outside of my dorm, and also leave the cafeteria. My only concern is that I feel as though that the water will be tarnished because of the guests that will be attending there because it is a party type boat style. So you're coming here to party, you're not coming here to just come and hang out, come and enjoy the wonderful campus, you're here to party, so there's going to be other types of activities there that, of course, Hampton University does not sponsor. So, the water, thinking of bottles and stuff being spilled inside the water, who's going to be able to clean up those types of activities? Also, there's going to be food and everywhere, just outside of our cafeteria, just making it just look nasty and not a homely environment. So, I'm just hoping you guys reconsider this and just help us have Hampton as a home by the sea for future Hamptonians and other upcoming freshmen who wish to attend this university. Thank you.

Mr. Kofi Kirkland, 104 Harkness Hall, HU, greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I am a freshman bio-chemistry major from Detroit, Michigan. The cafeteria that this boathouse would be built next to was built for us, the students, and I just think it would be a real shame if that would be intruded on by people foreign to the student body. It was also brought up that, it would take for you all to reconsider this boathouse being put on our property, the safety of the students would have to be violated. And I just want to ask you, does it take, or would it take the assault of one of our male students to reconsider? Or would it take the rape or assault or something like that on a female student to reconsider this? Do we have to go that far to reconsider this movement, or can we just look forward and see that maybe this isn't such a good idea? That's all I have to say. Thank you all.

Ms. Ambur Smith, 222 White Hall, HU, greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I'm a junior political science and pre-law major at the illustrious Hampton University. I stand before you asking you all to reconsider your decision to place a houseboat on our beautiful campus. As many of my students – my fellow students at Hampton University have mentioned, what we really and truly has always been our major concern, both as students and as the faculty and administration of Hampton University, is the safety of our students. As taxpaying and voting constituents here in this community, I think that it is important that our concerns are addressed and that are made aware to you, whether we've done it prior to a vote being placed or after, when reconsideration is the only way of going about revisiting this type of matter. Being here in Hampton, and as a political science major, I've had the opportunity to work on campaigns, and I know a lot of students have even worked on some of you all's, and I know that many of us are transient and perhaps that is why we're not always considered as some of the most boisterous citizens here in Hampton University and we're not

always seeming to be so involved in the political process, but our home by the sea is something that is a priority to us, and as citizens, because that is what we are, as long as we are here and residents in the City of Hampton. Might I add, our university is referred to, with flags that surround our campus's perimeter, as the City's treasure. I can't imagine that you would think to compromise something that you all have decided to regard in such a high regard, and for that reason, I once again do ask, sincerely, for your reconsideration of this matter. The safety of myself, a resident of White Hall, which is one of the few residence halls that overlooks that particular part of our waterfront. I do enjoy that exact area where the houseboat would be on a daily basis and I can't imagine that the sound and the behavior of the patrons of this houseboat might compromise my experience as a tuition paying and taxpaying individual. Thank you all so much for your time and your hopeful reconsideration. Thank you.

Mr. Jordan A. Green, 123 Holmes Hall, HU, greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I am a junior political science and English arts double major from Virginia Beach, Virginia. I represent the Army ROTC Mighty Pirate Battalion of Hampton University. One of the things that I do as a member of the Army ROTC is PT every morning. In PT, we often frequent the same Booker T. Washington Bridge that a lot of the Hampton University students frequent to go to all of the businesses and the like in Downtown Hampton. If the bridge is cut and the sidewalks are cut and that eliminates a way for Hampton University students to go into Downtown Hampton safely, I would question the necessity of the houseboat in regards to the safety of Hampton University students and to all Hampton citizens that would be crossing that bridge to get to and from the university or to the VA.

Mayor Ward noted that this was the last student signed up to speak and stated that Ms. Bunting had a few clarifying points. She thanked the students for being well-mannered, polite and articulate, and for taking part in the public process.

Ms. Bunting stated that she was glad the students were here to make sure that everyone had the same facts, as some of the comments showed an incomplete understanding of the situation, although opinions might not change. She noted several references to the houseboat, with the permitted use of being a bed and breakfast, would be on Hampton University land, which is not the case. The houseboat would be in the privately owned marina that is already out on the waterfront and has been there for some time with multiple boats. This is simply a specific privilege that has been granted to allow one of the boats moored there to have overnight stays, almost operating as a hotel. That houseboat would have four bedrooms, and only four bedrooms. The City has been told by the operator and provided in the material approved by Council that it would operate on Friday at 3 p.m. to Sunday at 11 a.m. There would be a cook and steward aboard the boat. The conditions that were included in the granting of the conditional privilege application required that the operator maintain a record of all people who are there staying overnight. The record must be made available for inspection by City personnel. No more than four staterooms could be used at any time, so if a larger boat was purchased, they could not have more than four bedrooms. The room rates that have been quoted are in the \$200-\$300 range, and while Ms. Bunting agrees that price alone does not dictate behavior, it is an indicator that if people are going to be spending that amount of money, as they would in a hotel, they would try to take care of the surroundings that they're in. When staying in a private hotel, people take care of the rooms, because if they don't, they can be sued by the operator. There will only be one vessel, and a second vessel or third vessel could not be added for bed and breakfast

purposes. There will also be a property manager on site when the bed and breakfast boat was being occupied to ensure that there are not spillover problems resulting on Hampton University or on the City's property.

Ms. Bunting noted that she was not sure where the idea that the Booker T. Washington Bridge would be cut. This is not the case. The City would not permit the changing or disruption to the bridge or sidewalk. She stated that the City wants students to come to Downtown Hampton and feel welcome. She stated that although there was a reference to it being a party boat, there had been nothing to suggest that this is the intention of the operator. It is not being billed as a party boat. There is a two night minimum stay, and with operating hours between Friday and Sunday, it only permits a two night stay. From a staff standpoint, it was seen as a complement to the university, as a place for parents to stay close to the university when they come to visit, or donors and alumni who wish to visit the university. She noted that the City feels honored to have Hampton University in its community and to have fine students spending four years here, and would not recommend from a staff level, or approve from a Council level, something believed to endanger the safety or viability of the university.

Ms. Bunting emphasized that this was a privately owned piece of property, not HU land. The marina is already in place. Nothing will be added to the marina, the Council has not approved an expansion of the marina, but an existing boat that moors at the marina will be allowed to have overnight stays. She noted that this may not change the students' minds about whether or not this was a good thing, but now the facts should be clear. Many of the concerns, such as the bridge or sidewalk being disrupted or loss of property and waterfront, should hopefully be alleviated.

Mayor Ward thanked the students again for their civic engagement. She resumed the public comment session.

Mr. Edwin Boone, 48 Snow Street, greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I appreciate the Hampton University students coming here and speaking up on their behalf. They love Hampton University. It's their home by the sea. I was born and raised here. I love Hampton, period. My grandmother and my grandfather are buried less than a mile and a half from here by the Woodlands Golf Course. The way Hampton do things, they read it on the first reading, they have four votes, and they run it through, without any questions from the citizens. They ignore the citizens. If you had came here before they voted, they still would've voted the same way. Last week, we had the homeowners of the Section 8 houses here. They was here in droves. They'll be here the second week, the second week which is the first meeting in October. We need to get involved. They was going to run it through the first time, of cleaning up the Section 8 houses, and the homeowners of the Section 8 homes came in droves because they don't feel that they had the opportunity. It was introduced Friday, they was going to run it through with the four votes. Most of the time they get six votes, and there's only one that's for the people. Most of the time they get six votes, since it's political time now, we start to get two or three, but it's always four with the majority vote. When they speak about the – the students speak about the waterfront. That's what drew the people here, the waterfront. I just happen to be born here. We have three parking garages now on the waterfront, which is taking up space when you could've used it for more reasons for the whole public to enjoy instead of a private contractor. I've been approached by the sheriff here, either in proximity, right outside the eyesight of camera, and a month – two months ago, came across the camera, the lens. So, they'll listen to you all, they're not going to

respond to y'all, and they already voted. So, yes it's going to take a rape or something serious to change their mind, because the decision has already been made before they came here, and it's already voted on. We have four – three to four lawsuits, with the police sting. First they said it was \$3 million that was missing; then they turned around and said \$4 million. I want to know through the Freedom of Information Act, what happened to those lawsuits with those police officers. So, you're citizens, yes, you're citizens. I can't turn my head to you because the Mayor will interrupt me; I'm supposed to talk to them directly. I need you all to get involved. My email address is edmrsunshine@yahoo.com. Please contact me so we can change the conscience of the Council.

ADJOURNMENT

George E. Wallace
Mayor

Katherine K. Glass, CMC
Clerk of Council

Date approved by Council _____